

in the National Guard State Partnership Program with the Maryland, Michigan, and Pennsylvania National Guards, respectively, and, since 1993, have provided additional opportunities to enhance National Guard skills and improve interoperability between the United States and Baltic forces;

Whereas, in 2019, the United States and the Baltic States signed the Security Cooperation Roadmaps, outlining joint security cooperation priorities for 2019 to 2024;

Whereas the Baltic States are actively involved in security assistance, promotion of democracy, and protection of human rights across Eastern Europe, including in Ukraine and Belarus, in the face of aggression and an increase of troops in Belarus by the Russian Federation and the manipulation of the migrant crisis in Europe by the Lukashenko regime;

Whereas the Government of the Russian Federation has pursued an aggressive disinformation campaign in the Baltic States, including intimidation of Western civilians and troops stationed in Europe and abroad via hacking, propaganda, and other cyberattacks, and has increased air provocations in Eastern Europe;

Whereas, since the restoration of independence, Estonia, Latvia, and Lithuania have faced considerable aggressive behavior, intimidation, and cyberattacks from the Russian Federation and, as a result, have worked to shape total defense strategies to counter intervention by the Russian Federation;

Whereas, after building trade ties with Taiwan, the Government of Lithuania has faced severe economic and diplomatic coercion from the People's Republic of China;

Whereas the Government of the People's Republic of China has brazenly imposed a customs blockade on products from Lithuania and imports containing Lithuanian parts, with the European Union considering taking the matter to the World Trade Organization as a violation of international trade rules;

Whereas, on December 21, 2021, in a call with Prime Minister of Lithuania Ingrida Simonyte, Secretary of State Tony Blinken underscored the ironclad solidarity of the relationship of the United States with Lithuania as Lithuania faces geopolitical challenges to regional stability, security, and economic prosperity;

Whereas, on January 5, 2022, at a joint press conference with Foreign Minister of Germany Annalena Baerbock, Secretary of State Blinken added, "We have immediate concern about the Government of China's attempts to bully Lithuania, a country of fewer than three million people. China is pushing European and American companies to stop building products with components made in Lithuania or risk losing access to the Chinese market, all because Lithuania chose to expand their cooperation with Taiwan.";

Whereas, on January 24, 2022, the Secretary of Defense put 8,500 members of the Armed Forces on high alert for potential deployment to Eastern Europe as part of a NATO response force;

Whereas support for the Baltic States by the United States remains a crucial factor for countering such economic and diplomatic coercion by the Government of the People's Republic of China and ensuring security in the Baltic States and complements the efforts of NATO to strengthen its deterrence and defense posture, including an enhancing its forward presence in the eastern part of the NATO Alliance with multinational battlegroups;

Whereas the Baltic States have been models for democratic governance with strong institutions and respect for civil liberties

and the rule of law, which are cherished shared values between the Baltic States and the United States; and

Whereas, since the restoration of independence, the democratic and economic development and progress of the Baltic States has established Estonia, Latvia, and Lithuania as 3 shining beacons for freedom: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) celebrates 100 years of continuous diplomatic relations between the United States and Estonia, Latvia, and Lithuania;

(2) looks forward to continued growth in diplomatic relations between the Baltic States and the United States;

(3) commits to providing continued support for the Baltic States through economic and security cooperation, including through the Baltic Security Initiative, further strengthening transatlantic ties and regional presence through the North Atlantic Treaty Organization;

(4) recognizes the courage and resilience of the people of Estonia, Latvia, and Lithuania in their fight for freedom and democracy in the face of aggressive behavior by the Russian Federation;

(5) stands in solidarity with Lithuania against economic and diplomatic coercion by the People's Republic of China; and

(6) expresses the wish that the next 100 years of friendship between the Baltic States and the United States continue to build on the positive achievements and progress made since the Baltic States restored their independence.

PRIVILEGES OF THE FLOOR

Mr. MERKLEY. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that privileges of the floor be granted to Jeffrey Warner, my State Department fellow, for the duration of his time as a fellow.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

ORDERS FOR TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 1, 2022

Mr. MERKLEY. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that when the Senate completes its business today, it adjourn until 10 a.m. on Tuesday, February 1; that following the prayer and pledge, the morning hour be deemed expired, the Journal of proceedings be approved to date, the time for the two leaders be reserved for their use later in the day, and morning business be closed; that upon the conclusion of morning business, the Senate proceed to executive session and resume consideration of the Brennan nomination, postcloture; further, that all postcloture time on the Brennan nomination expire at 11:30 a.m.; that the Senate recess following the cloture vote on the Fleming nomination until 2:15 p.m. to allow for the weekly caucus meetings; that if cloture is invoked on the Fleming nomination, all postcloture time expire at 2:15 p.m.; finally, if any nominations are confirmed during Tuesday's session, that the motions to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table and the President be immediately notified of the Senate's action.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. MERKLEY. Mr. President, for the information of Senators, there will be two votes at 11:30 a.m. and two votes at 2:15 p.m., with additional rollcall votes expected.

ADJOURNMENT UNTIL 10 A.M. TOMORROW

Mr. MERKLEY. Mr. President, if there is no further business to come before the Senate, I ask unanimous consent that it stand adjourned under the previous order.

There being no objection, the Senate, at 6:49 p.m., adjourned until Tuesday, February 1, 2022, at 10 a.m.

NOMINATIONS

Executive nominations received by the Senate:

NORTHERN BORDER REGIONAL COMMISSION

CHRIS SAUNDERS, OF VERMONT, TO BE FEDERAL CO-CHAIRPERSON OF THE NORTHERN BORDER REGIONAL COMMISSION, VICE HAROLD B. PARKER.

NATIONAL FOUNDATION ON THE ARTS AND THE HUMANITIES

DEBORAH R. COEN, OF CONNECTICUT, TO BE A MEMBER OF THE NATIONAL COUNCIL ON THE HUMANITIES FOR A TERM EXPIRING JANUARY 26, 2028, VICE JEAN M. YARBROUGH, TERM EXPIRED.

CHRISTINE M. KIM, OF COLORADO, TO BE A MEMBER OF THE NATIONAL COUNCIL ON THE HUMANITIES FOR A TERM EXPIRING JANUARY 26, 2026, VICE DAVID ARMAND DEKEYSER, TERM EXPIRED.

KAREN ANN STOUT, OF PENNSYLVANIA, TO BE A MEMBER OF THE NATIONAL COUNCIL ON THE HUMANITIES FOR A TERM EXPIRING JANUARY 26, 2026, VICE WILLIAM SCHNEIDER, JR., TERM EXPIRED.

DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

LAWANDA AMAKER TONEY, OF MARYLAND, TO BE ASSISTANT SECRETARY FOR COMMUNICATIONS AND OUTREACH, DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION, VICE PETER CUNNINGHAM.

DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

VANESSA ROBERTS AVERY, OF CONNECTICUT, TO BE UNITED STATES ATTORNEY FOR THE DISTRICT OF CONNECTICUT FOR THE TERM OF FOUR YEARS, VICE JOHN H. DURHAM, RESIGNED.

TRINA A. HIGGINS, OF UTAH, TO BE UNITED STATES ATTORNEY FOR THE DISTRICT OF UTAH FOR THE TERM OF FOUR YEARS, VICE JOHN W. HUBER, RESIGNED.

JESSE A. LASLOVICH, OF MONTANA, TO BE UNITED STATES ATTORNEY FOR THE DISTRICT OF MONTANA FOR THE TERM OF FOUR YEARS, VICE KURT G. ALME, RESIGNED.

S. LANE TUCKER, OF ALASKA, TO BE UNITED STATES ATTORNEY FOR THE DISTRICT OF ALASKA FOR THE TERM OF FOUR YEARS, VICE BRYAN D. SCHRODER, RESIGNED.

ALEXANDER M.M. UBALLEZ, OF NEW MEXICO, TO BE UNITED STATES ATTORNEY FOR THE DISTRICT OF NEW MEXICO FOR THE TERM OF FOUR YEARS, VICE JOHN C. ANDERSON, RESIGNED.

PRIVACY AND CIVIL LIBERTIES OVERSIGHT BOARD

BETH ANN WILLIAMS, OF NEW JERSEY, TO BE A MEMBER OF THE PRIVACY AND CIVIL LIBERTIES OVERSIGHT BOARD FOR A TERM EXPIRING JANUARY 29, 2026, VICE ADITYA BAMZAI, TERM EXPIRED.

DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

JANE E. YOUNG, OF NEW HAMPSHIRE, TO BE UNITED STATES ATTORNEY FOR THE DISTRICT OF NEW HAMPSHIRE FOR THE TERM OF FOUR YEARS, VICE SCOTT W. MURRAY, RESIGNED.

IN THE AIR FORCE

THE FOLLOWING AIR NATIONAL GUARD OF THE UNITED STATES OFFICERS FOR APPOINTMENT IN THE RESERVE OF THE AIR FORCE TO THE GRADE INDICATED UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTIONS 12203 AND 12212:

To be brigadier general

COL. DAVID W. BENNETT
COL. KARL S. BOWERS, JR.
COL. SHAWN G. RYAN

THE FOLLOWING AIR NATIONAL GUARD OF THE UNITED STATES OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT IN THE RESERVE OF THE AIR FORCE TO THE GRADE INDICATED UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTIONS 12203 AND 12212:

To be brigadier general

COL. ROBERT M. SAGE
THE FOLLOWING AIR NATIONAL GUARD OF THE UNITED STATES OFFICERS FOR APPOINTMENT IN THE RESERVE